

Boston Public Library

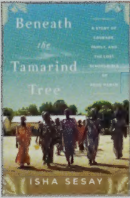
Black is...

Books about the
African American
experience

2020



BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

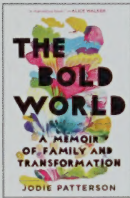


Beneath the Tamarind Tree: A Story of Courage, Family, and the Schoolgirls of Boko Haram

By Isha Sesay

The author, a CNN host, details the story of the 2014 abduction of 276 Nigerian Chibok girls by jihadist terrorist organization Boko Haram.

BIOG HV6433.N62 S47 2019x

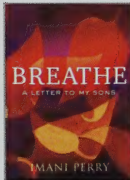


The Bold World: A Memoir of Family and Transformation

By Jodie Patterson

Wife, mother, and activist Jodie Patterson writes about raising her children, including her transgendered son.

BIOG HQ77.8.P38 2019



Breathe: A Letter to My Sons

By Imani Perry

Scholar Imani Perry writes a letter to her sons addressing her concerns about the struggles they will face as young African American men in contemporary America.

BIOG E185.86.P477 2019

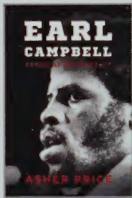


Dapper Dan: Made in Harlem: A Memoir

By Daniel R. Day
with Mikael Awake

The story of renowned clothing designer Daniel "Dapper Dan" Day, from a childhood in 1950s Harlem, to stewardship of his eponymous boutique in the 1980s, to his work being shown at the Smithsonian, the Met, the MOMA, and more.

BIOG F128.68.H3 D39 2019



Earl Campbell: Yards After Contact

By Asher Price

A biography of the legendary Heisman Trophy-winning University of Texas and Houston Oilers (now Tennessee Titans) running back.

BIOG GV939.C36 P75 2019

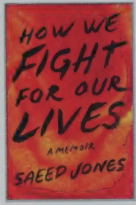


Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward

By Valerie Jarrett

The former advisor to President Obama details her struggles dealing with racial and gender issues.

BIOG E907.J37 2019



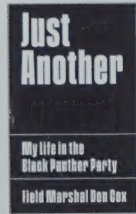
How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir

By Saeed Jones

In this coming-of-age memoir, poet Saeed Jones

writes about his life as a gay African American man from the South.

BLOG PS3610.O6279 Z46 2019



Just Another Nigger: Or Use What You Got to Get What You Need

By Donald Cox

In this posthumous memoir, leading member of the

Black Panther Party Donald Cox tells his story from his early life in Missouri to his experiences as a civil rights activist.

BLOG E185.615.C692 2019



KD: Kevin Durant's Relentless Pursuit to be the Greatest

By Marcus Thompson II

Legendary Oakland sports

scribe and acclaimed author Marcus Thompson II delivers a poignant biography of basketball superstar Kevin Durant.

BLOG GV884.D868 T46 2019x

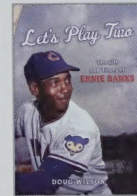


Ladysitting: My Year with Nana at the End of Her Century

By Lorene Cary

Cary's brilliant narrative recounts both time spent with her frail but feisty centenarian grandmother as well as stories spanning five generations of family.

BLOG RC672.C374 2019



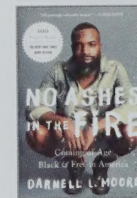
Let's Play Two: The Life and Times of Ernie Banks

By Doug Wilson

This biography recounts

Ernie Banks' early years in the Negro Leagues in the segregated South through his 19-year career with the Chicago Cubs, earning the nickname "Mr. Cub," to his Baseball Hall of Fame induction.

BLOG GV865.B24 R36 2019



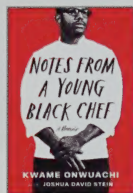
No Ashes in the Fire

By Darnell L. Moore

This autobiography is the story of Darnell Moore, a leading organizer of the

Black Lives Matter movement.

BLOG HQ76.27.A37 M66 2018

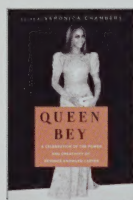


Notes from a Young Black Chef: A Memoir

By Kwame Onwuachi and Joshua David Stein

The story of the Bronx-born James Beard Award-winning chef and caterer.

BLOG TX649.O62 A3 2019

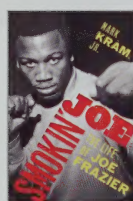


Queen Bey: A Celebration of the Power and Creativity of Beyoncé Knowles-Carter

Edited by Veronica Chambers

This anthology is a collection of essays written by academics, musicians, and cultural critics on the impact of the pop music legend.

BLOG ML420.K675 Q4 2019



Smokin' Joe: The Life of Joe Frazier

By Mark Kram, Jr.

This biography tackles the life of one of the greatest

boxing heavyweights of all time, Joe Frazier. Born a sharecropper's son in South Carolina, this biography traces his rise to become an Olympic gold medalist, and the undisputed Heavyweight Boxing Champion from 1970-1973.

BLOG GV1132.F7 K73 2014x



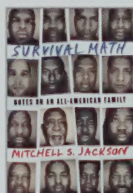
Soulless: The Case Against R. Kelly

By Jim DeRogatis

The co-host of nationally syndicated public radio show

Sound Opinions and former *Chicago Sun-Times* rock critic Jim DeRogatis followed R. Kelly's story for more than 18 years before creating this journalistic tour de force, a darkly riveting investigation of Kelly's alleged abuse of young women.

BLOG ML420.K37 D37 2019x



Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family

By Mitchell S. Jackson

This memoir details the author's early struggles,

growing up in a Portland, Oregon neighborhood, blighted by drugs, crime, violence, and poverty.

BLOG E185.86.J32 2019x



Sweat the Technique: Revelations on Creativity from the Lyrical Genius

By Rakim with Bakari Kitwana

In this part memoir/part writing guide, DJ and hip-hop artist Rakim discusses how he creates with words, music, and rhymes.

BLOG ML420.R279 A3 2019x



The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers

By Bridgett M. Davis

This singular memoir tells the story of the author's mother, who took care of her loving family by running an illegal numbers racket out of her home for 34 years.

BIOG F574.D453 D38 2019x



The Yellow House

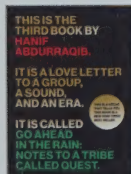
By Sarah M. Broom

This National Book Award-winning biography chronicles the family history of Sarah

Broom, a descendant of storied New Orleans families.

BIOG PS3602.R6458 Y45 2019

EXPRESSIONS



Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to A Tribe Called Quest

By Hanif Abdurraqib

Poet and essayist

Abdurraqib, whose writing has appeared in *The Fader*, the *New York Times*, and *Pitchfork*, pays homage to the celebrated rap group A Tribe Called Quest.

ML421.T762 W55 2019

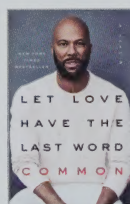


The Last O.G. Cookbook: How to Get Mad Culinary Skills

By Tray Barker

A collection of classic African American and multicultural Brooklyn recipes inspired by the hit TBS comedy TV series starring Tracy Morgan.

TX715.2.A47 L37 2019x



Let Love Have the Last Word: A Memoir

By Common with Mensah Demary

Grammy- and Academy

Award-winner Common explores love in all forms—his love of God, family, self, partners, and children.

BJ1589.U66 2019x



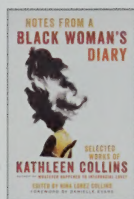
Magical Negro: Poems

By Morgan Parker

The author of *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé* and *Other*

People's Comfort Keeps Me Up At Night returns with this 2019 poetry collection, a broad exploration of African American womanhood.

PS3616.A74547 A6 2019



Notes from a Black Woman's Diary: Selected Works of Kathleen Collins

By Kathleen Collins

A posthumous collection of screenplays, essays, stories, and diary entries by artist, filmmaker, and writer Collins explores relationships: both as they are formed and come undone.

PS3553.O47485 A6 2019

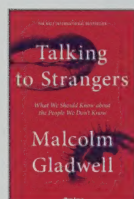


The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations

By Toni Morrison

Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winner Morrison delivers powerful cultural commentary and meditations on topics including Martin Luther King, Jr., James Baldwin, and her own works.

PS3563.O8749 A6 2019

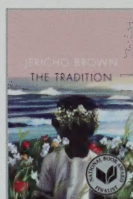


Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know

By Malcolm Gladwell

Thinker, writer, and podcaster Malcolm Gladwell cautions readers about their interactions with and assumptions about strangers.

HM1106 .G58 2019x



The Tradition

By Jericho Brown
NEA recipient and Guggenheim Fellow Brown explores Blackness, freedom, fatherhood, and gayness in this 2019 poetry collection.

PS3602.R699 A6 2019

HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES



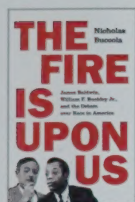
An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago

By Alex Kotlowitz

Reporter Alex Kotlowitz

dives into the problem of urban violence by chronicling the events of a single summer in Chicago, as seen through the eyes of those most impacted.

HQ799.2.V56 K68 2019

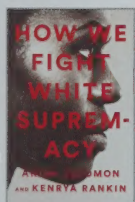


The Fire is Upon Us: James Baldwin, William F. Buckley, Jr. and the Debate Over Race in America

By Nicholas Buccola

On February 18, 1965, American conservative William F. Buckley, Jr. and African American author James Baldwin debated the issue "The American Dream is at the expense of the American Negro." In this book, author Nicholas Buccola examines the radically different paths that brought Buckley and Baldwin to their positions that day, and the controversy that still resonates long after their clash.

E185.615.B77 2019



How We Fight White Supremacy: A Field Guide to Black Resistance

By Akiba Solomon
and Kenrya Rankin

Colorlines editors Solomon and Rankin present a collection of essays by organizers, artists, journalists, comedians, and filmmakers on how they fight white supremacy.

E185.61 S6653 2019x



Reclaiming Our Space: How Black Feminists Are Changing the World from the Tweets to the Street

By Feminista Jones

Social worker, activist, and cultural commentator Feminista Jones discusses how young African American women are using social media to dialog about race, class, and gender.

HQ197 .J66 2019

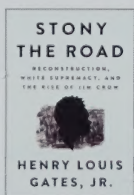


Sacred Ground: The Chicago Streets of Timuel Black

By Timuel Black, Jr.
with Susan Klonsky

Acclaimed historian, activist, and storyteller Timuel Black recounts fascinating anecdotes about his life, from his Great Migration arrival to the race riot-torn Chicago of 1919, to mentoring President Barack Obama, and his life as a civil rights activist.

F548.9.B558 2019

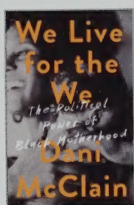


Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow

By Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

This book and companion television show discuss the post-Civil War triumphs of African Americans, and the eventual descent into Jim Crow.

E185.61.G253 2019



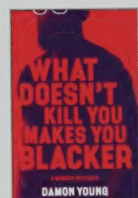
We Live for the We: The Political Power of Black Motherhood

By Dani McClain

First time mother Dani

McClain interviews other African American mothers about their experiences during pregnancy and raising children of color from infancy through young adulthood.

HQ755.8 .M414 2019



What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker

By Damon Young

Cultural critic for GQ and co-founder of *verysmartbrothas*

at *theroot.com*, Damon Young writes humorous and pointed essays about contemporary Blackness.

E185.97.Y632 A3 2019x

FICTION



Black Leopard, Red Wolf

By Marlon James

A lone wolf hunter reluctantly bands together with a motley group to

find a mysterious lost boy.

SCIFI FANTASY JAMES M



Genesis Begins Again

By Alicia D. Williams

Teen Genesis believes that her dark skin is partly to blame for her family's emotional and financial struggles.

J FICTION WILLIAMS A



Hair Love

By Matthew A. Cherry

A young African American girl's father styles her natural hair.

J PICTURE CHERRY M



I'm Not Dying with You Tonight

By Kimberly Jones

Two Atlanta teens, one African American and

one white, must help each other when a riot breaks out at their high school football game.

TEEN FICTION JONES K



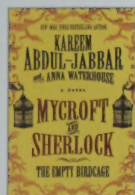
Let Me Hear a Rhyme

By Tiffany D. Jackson

with lyrics by Malik "Malik-16" Sharif

Three Brooklyn teens conspire to turn their murdered friend into a living hip-hop star.

TEEN FICTION JACKSON T



Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage

By Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
and Anna Waterhouse

This third book in the Holmesian trilogy—co-written by former NBA All-Star Abdul-Jabbar—finds Sherlock and Mycroft facing off against the Fire Four Eleven killer.

MYSTERY ABDULJAB K



The New Kid

By Jerry Craft

A timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real.

J GRAPHIC NEW KID

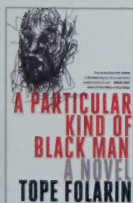


The Nickle Boys: A Novel

By Colson Whitehead

In the early 1960s, two African American boys from Florida are sentenced to serve time at a corrupt reform school.

FICTION WHITEHEAD C

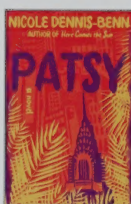


A Particular Kind of Black Man

By Tope Folarin

An immigrant family from Nigeria struggles to adapt to life in rural Utah.

FICTION FOLARIN T



Patsy: A Novel

By Nicole Dennis-Benn

Patsy and her young daughter Tru emigrate from rural Jamaica to

urban Brooklyn where they discover that all is not as they imagined.

FICTION DENNISBEN N



Pet

By Akwaeke Emezi

Transgender teen Jam and her best friend Redemption encounter

the strange creature "Pet" and become monster hunters in a world that denies their existence.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY EMEZI A



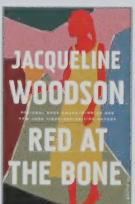
Queenie: A Novel

By Candice
Carty-Williams

When Queenie Jenkins, a young British Jamaican

newspaper reporter, breaks up with her latest boyfriend, she starts to question her decisions and values.

FICTION CARTYWIL C



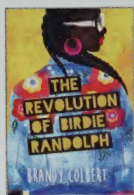
Red at the Bone

By Jacqueline Woodson

An unexpected teen pregnancy brings together two families from

different social classes.

FICTION WOODSON J



The Revolution of Birdie Randolph

By Brandy Colbert

Teen Birdie Randolph's life is rapidly changing. A good student, she falls for a troubled boy and yearns for more independence.

TEEN FICTION COLBERT B



Speaking of Summer

By Kalisha Buckhanon

Autumn Spencer becomes obsessed with solving the mystery of her twin's death while dealing with the death of their mother.

FICTION BUCKHANO K

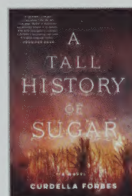


The Right Swipe

By Alisha Rai

Dating app designer Rhianna Hunter has career success but no luck with online dating. Will she finally connect with sexy Samson Lima?

FICTION RAI A

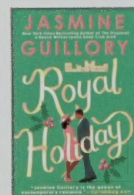


A Tall History of Sugar

By Curdella Forbes

This imaginative book tells the story of two Jamaican lovers between 1958 and 2010.

FICTION FORBES C



Royal Holiday

By Jasmine Guillory

When Vivian tags along on her daughter's business trip to London, she's excited to see the sights; but she hardly expects one will be the Queen's handsome private secretary with whom a flirtation arises.

FICTION GUILLORY J

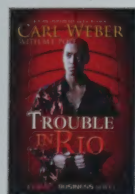


Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the sky

By Kwame Mbalia

This epic fantasy book combines African American folk heroes and West African gods.

J SCIFIC FANTASY MBALIA K



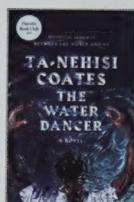
Trouble in Rio: A Family Business Novel

By Carl Weber

In this installment of the *Family Business* series, Rio

Duncan breaks free from his family, only to encounter even more trouble.

URBAN FICTION WEBER C



The Water Dancer

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

In Ta-Nehisi Coates' debut novel, slave Hiram Walker uses mysterious powers to escape his life of bondage.

FICTION COATES T



The Undeclared

By Kwame Alexander

A tribute to celebrated African Americans, with inspiring quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr., Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, and more.

J PICTURE ALEXANDE K



Who Put This Song On?

By Morgan Parker

African American teen Morgan overcomes her identity issues, while living in a conservative town.

TEEN FICTION PARKER M



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Books about the African American experience | 2020



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Toni Morrison by Michael Lionstar

The Black is... booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.

